

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a transmodulator unit comprising (i) a first input configured to receive a baseband video signal, (ii) a second input configured to receive a first encoded data signal and (iii) an output configured to present a second encoded data signal to a legacy receiver, wherein (i) said second encoded data signal is generated in response to said first encoded data signal and said baseband video signal, (ii) said first encoded data signal comprises an advanced data signal, wherein said legacy receiver is not compliant with said advanced data signal, (iii) said second encoded data signal comprises a legacy data signal, ~~and~~ (iv) said legacy data signal comprises said advanced data signal converted to be compliant with said legacy receiver, and (v) said baseband video signal comprises information (a) generated by said legacy receiver and (b) configured to program said transmodulator unit to convert said advanced data signal to said legacy data signal.

2. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein (i) said baseband video signal comprises embedded programming information and (ii) one or more operations of said transmodulator unit are controlled in response to said embedded programming information.

3. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a set-top box configured (i) to generate said baseband video signal in response to said second encoded data signal and
5 (ii) to embed said programming information in said baseband video signal.

4. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

a splitter comprising (i) an input port coupled to said set-top box, (ii) a first output port coupled to said
5 transmodulator unit and (iii) a second output port coupled to a video device.

5. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said programming information is embedded in a vertical blanking interval of said baseband video signal.

6. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said transmodulator unit further comprises:

a conversion circuit configured to convert said baseband video signal from an analog form to a digital form; and

5 an extraction circuit configured to extract said embedded information from said digital form of said baseband video signal.

7. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

 said extraction circuit is further configured to decode said embedded programming information.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said transmodulation unit is configured to communicate with said set-top box using MPEG signal elements that do not contain information of a program to be displayed.

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

 said first encoded data signal comprises at least one of (i) an MPEG4 signal and (ii) a digital data signal; and

5 said second encoded data signal comprises at least one of (i) a MPEG2 signal and a MPEG signal.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmodulator unit is implemented as a single integrated circuit.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second input of said transmodulator unit is further configured to connect to at least one of (i) a low noise block (LNB) of a satellite dish or other antenna, (ii) an over the air
5 (OTA) antenna and (iii) a cable television signal.

12. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said advanced data signal comprises at least one of (i) an 8PSK, 16QAM or similar digitally modulated signal and (ii) a Turbo, LDPC (low density parity check) or other similar coded signal.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transmodulator unit configured to support baseband video signaling in a set-top box local loop connection comprising:

means for receiving a baseband video signal comprising
5 programming information embedded in at least one of a vertical blanking interval and a chroma portion of said baseband video signal, wherein said programming information is generated by a legacy receiver; and

means for controlling said transmodulator unit in
10 response to said embedded programming information to convert a first encoded data signal that is not compliant with ~~a~~ said legacy receiver to a second encoded data signal that is compliant with said legacy receiver.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for baseband video signaling in a set-top box local loop connection comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving a baseband video signal comprising
5 embedded programming information, wherein said programming information is generated by a legacy receiver; and

(B) controlling a transmodulator unit in response to said embedded programming information to convert a first encoded data signal that is not compliant with ~~a~~ said legacy receiver to a
10 second encoded data signal that is compliant with said legacy receiver.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 14, wherein said embedded programming information is encoded.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 14, wherein said programming information is embedded in said baseband video signal in a set-top box connected to said transmodulator unit.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

coupling said set-top box to an input port of a splitter;

coupling said transmodulator unit to a first output port
5 of said splitter; and

coupling a display device to a second port of said
splitter.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 14, wherein
said programming information is embedded in a vertical blanking
interval of said baseband video signal.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 14, further
comprising the steps of:

converting said baseband video signal from an analog form
to a digital form; and

5 extracting said embedded information from said digital
form of said baseband video signal.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 19, further
comprising the step of:

decoding said embedded programming information.

21. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 17, further
comprising the step of:

embedding said programming information in said baseband video signal such that display of said baseband video signal on
5 said display is unaffected.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 16, wherein the step (B) comprises:

controlling transmodulation of a video signal from an advanced format to a legacy format of compliant with said set-top box.